

Ballot Questionnaire: Dwynn Golden, Nominating Committee

Ballot Question 1: What makes you qualified for this position? Why are you interested in this position?

I have been a midwife since 1993 and participate in the ACNM affiliate meetings of the four states where I serve as clinical faculty for Frontier Nursing University (FNU). I have served as the secretary for Sigma Theta Tau chapter for the last four years and represented FNU at the Sigma Theta Tau international congress in 2019. I have seen the essential role of midwives supporting other midwives in professional practice. Midwives have a strong network that can be built on to strengthen our profession and support the development of midwives in practice, new graduates and students. I believe that by volunteering for the nominating committee at ACNM, I can help to build opportunities to expand knowledge, practice and the professional role of midwives.

Ballot Question 2: Visit ACNM's Strategic Plan [HERE](#). What part of the strategic plan embodies your personal philosophy?

I have been a midwife in communities that served women from diverse backgrounds and socioeconomic status. I practiced with a commitment to serve all women to the best of my ability and to empower them to be active participants in their healthcare. I would like to expand my clinical experience in a volunteer role at ACNM to bring forward candidates who will reflect the diversity of the populations we care for and demonstrate inclusiveness at all levels of the profession. I also believe that as a profession, we need to model and develop leadership skills in order to strengthen and expand midwifery practice in an interprofessional health care environment.

Ballot Question 3: Visit the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) [HERE](#). What ideas do you have for enhancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging?

Recognizing that implicit bias needs to be combated at all levels of our society and making positive changes within our own profession is a start. I believe that a key function of ACNM is to support the growth of midwives from all backgrounds. This support can be provided through mentoring students, enhanced clinical development and support for new graduates and assisting practicing midwives to stay current through education and professional networking. Providing equal opportunities for education, employment and professional development of midwives is an essential role of our professional organization. Midwives must also embrace their personal responsibility to improve the diversity of our profession and participate in community outreach, education, and professional support and mentoring opportunities. Together, we can make a change in the future of midwifery.

Ballot Question 4: What is your vision for innovation and improvement within ACNM?

Midwives have always been visionaries and have a strong commitment to their vision. I think that as a community, midwives need to support each other in developing a strong professional identity and acknowledging our shared goals. The fact is that midwifery care

has been shown to be cost effective, safe and improves overall health outcomes. Building on our strengths together will only improve the achievement of professional goals for midwifery. Continuing to do research that illustrates the effectiveness of midwifery practice, improvement in outcomes and the mutual benefits of interdisciplinary collaborative practice will have a positive impact on the profession and practice of midwifery in all settings.